

Donald D. Cobb
Associate Director
Threat Reduction

Don Cobb holds the position of Associate Director for Threat Reduction at the Laboratory. As associate director, Cobb's directorate responsibilities include science and technology programs involving defense, nuclear technology, nonproliferation, controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction, space sciences, biology, international technology and related assessments.

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks he led the laboratory's scientific, technical and analytical responses, including the establishment of its Center for Homeland Security.

Cobb has 27 years' experience in nuclear weapon phenomenology and the development and implementation of nuclear safeguards. He has conducted research in detecting nuclear detonations in the atmosphere and on nuclear safeguards systems for civilian power facilities. He joined the laboratory in 1976 after 6 years with EG&G leading a nuclear phenomenology effort at Los Alamos. Through the next 12 years he held management positions in the Earth and Space Sciences division, while also managing the laboratory's satellite treaty verification program.



In 1988 Cobb was named project leader for the Beam Experiments Aboard Rocket (BEAR) experiment, which successfully tested a neutral particle beam accelerator during a suborbital rocket flight. He then served in Washington with the US Department of Energy's Office of Space, returning to become division leader of the Space Science and Technology division.

In 1993 he took on what would become a five-year role as division leader for the Nonproliferation and International Security division, expanding its range to include work with states from the former Soviet Union to advance efforts in nuclear material control and accountability. NIS also responded to other new opportunities in nonproliferation detection and analysis, and conducted extensive research in space science and astrophysics, with a strong collaborative effort with NASA.

When the Threat Reduction Directorate was created in 1998, he was and continues to be its first leader. The underpinning science of Threat Reduction includes nuclear science and engineering, biosciences, space sciences, chemistry, electrical engineering, statistics, computer science and more.

Cobb earned a bachelor's degree in physics with honors from Northern Illinois University, and a master's degree in physics and a doctorate in high-energy physics from the University of Iowa.



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